Adding a large UnSpiral Cellar to an important period manor house.

The property in this case study was a substantial mid 18th century manor house. We were tasked with creating a large wine room to house a wine collection that the client was about to acquire.

Identifying space within the property from which to create a dedicated wine room would not be an issue, but as the house was of historic importance, it was important that the addition of any wine storage had to be in keeping with the style of the property.

The brief stated a requirement to create cellar storage for 650-700 wine bottles but, unusually, the exact composition of the collection was unknown. Thus, the design would need to be versatile enough to allow for an indeterminate mix of loose bottle, case, champagne and spirits storage.

Spiral Cellars

LONDON

The space

As with many large period properties the house had a warren of basement rooms, including an under-utilised storage area that could be re-purposed into a statement wine space.

The room had a low beamed ceiling and with no windows, was naturally dark and cool. Fortuitously, within the structure of the space we identified existing vents to the exterior of the property. This meant that appropriate ambient cellaring conditions could be met without the need for mechanised climate control.
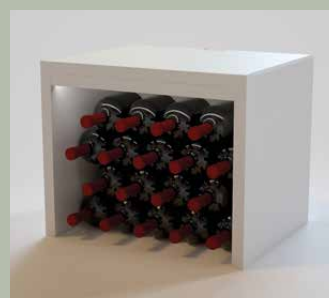
The solution

The initial proposal was to create a bespoke timber wine room in the style of a traditional gentleman's club.

Whilst this would be in keeping with the ambiance of the period property, there was a slight concern about creating a dark timber wine room in an already dark space.

We then discussed the advantages of creating a wine room using modules from the recently launched UnSpiral Cellar system.

- Whilst the UnSpiral is very much a contemporary cellaring system, its design is based on a traditional stone wine cave, with which it shares a similar aesthetic. As such, its use within the historic manor house would be entirely in keeping with the style of the property.

- With 38 modules in the range, plus options to add feature lighting, the UnSpiral Cellar could be configured to suit both the room and the clients wine storage requirements.

- Made from the same 'Limestone White' concrete we use in our Spiral Cellars, the light colouring of the UnSpiral Cellar would help lift the space.

- The thermal properties of the concrete modules would be better at retaining the cool temperature of the room than if the space were crafted from timber (important in an ambient cellaring space).

- By using pre-cast modules to create the wine room, the project would be significantly less expensive and quicker to deliver than a fully bespoke timber option.

The installation

The client arranged for minor enabling works to be undertaken by a 3rd party prior to the installation of the UnSpiral Cellar.

The walls were lined with plywood to take the module fixings and the dark beamed ceiling was painted to create the illusion of height.

Once completed, the Spiral Cellars install team were back on site where it took just under 2 weeks to fully install the UnSpiral Cellar.

1. Room clad in plywood

2. Modules arrive on site and are unwrapped

3. Floor plinth laid along dominant wall

4. First row of modules are laid on top of the plinth

5. Modules are laid sequentially row by row

6. Lighting integrated as building progresses

7. Build complete and ready for finishing works

8. Awaiting final fix electricals

9. The finished room

Finished room - the design details

Using 10 different shaped modules (93 pieces in total), a feature display wine room with capacity for 690 bottles was created.

· Extra-deep bins for case storage

· Double bins for magnum case storage

· An allowance for vertical spirit storage

· Pelmet edge up-lighting to create the illusion of space in the low ceiling room

· Glass door to allow the space to be viewed from the hallway

· Display panels with soft label-enhancing LED lighting

Double bin for case-on-side storage

Bins allow for vertical bottle storage

16 bottle display with LED

Pelmet-edge lighting creates a feeling of space

To find out more about our products and services, please visit our website or contact our Customer Adviser team.

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